

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT North Korean Independent Signal Platoons

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. For the purpose of establishing and maintaining better contact with North Korean troops and guerrillas in the Republic of Korea, in December 1950 the North Korean Army Headquarters in Pyongyang organized seven "Supplementary Independent Signal Platoons" (Tongsin Pokup Polnip So Tae). Each platoon was composed of 15 to 18 men, of whom three were radio operators, and was equipped with one complete transmitter-receiver set.\*\*
2. The seven platoons were sent out of Pyongyang by truck on 3 January 1951 towards the south. In crossing the Taedong River below Pyongyang, however, one of the trucks overturned, resulting in serious injuries to key personnel and the loss of important radio equipment of the 2, 5, 6, and 7 Platoons. These units, consequently, were returned to Pyongyang, but the 1, 3, and 4 Platoons continued south without further incident.\*\*
3. At an undetermined date in early February, the 4 Platoon was with unidentified North Korean army elements at Hatong-ayon (129-29, 37-10) near Yongwol. When the North Koreans were attacked by ROK troops in the area, the platoon leader (rank unknown) and the radio operators were killed and the remainder of the platoon captured or scattered.
4. Before this engagement, it was rumored that the 1 and 3 Platoons had been in exchanges of fire with ROK units which had resulted in the loss of so many personnel and so much equipment that further operations were not possible.

\* Comment: The exact type of radio equipment was not stated.

\*\* Comment: The route taken and the destination of each platoon was not stated.

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